

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

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3 March 1982

Memo
Chano

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable William P. Clark
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: Draft NSDD on Managing Terrorist Incidents

1. I agree that it would be appropriate for the Special Situation Group chaired by the Vice President to have overall policy responsibility for managing terrorist incidents.

2. In considering a "lead agency" for a particular crisis or incident, because of the nature of such terrorist incidents, I believe an agency involved in operational matters should be selected.

3. You should keep in mind that I recently established an Interagency Intelligence Committee on Terrorism to focus and coordinate interagency efforts to counter the terrorist threat. This group will concentrate on threat alerts, trend assessments, and required procedural improvements, such as more rapid dissemination of critical information. This Committee mechanism could be used to provide support for the Special Situation Group or lead agency.

4. We have established a Center on Instability, Insurgency and Terrorism and we have developed a great deal of data, many relationships and a lot of experience which is readily available and can be useful in handling a terrorist incident with any foreign dimension. Thus, it seems that CIA should certainly be part of any structure established to manage a foreign terrorist incident or an incident in this country with any foreign involvement. For the safety of our people overseas, however, it would be wise not to publicly reveal Agency involvement.

William J. Casey
William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

Rewritten by DCI/3 Mar 82

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